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October 19, 2018
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Prof. Greg Webster
Committee Chair, Department of Psychology
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Prof. Greg Webster, and members of the search committee,

I am applying for the advertised Assistant Professor of Quantitative Methods position in the Department of Psychology at University of Florida. I am a Ph.D candidate in Quantitative Methodology at Vanderbilt University's Department of Psychology and Human Development. I anticipate defending my dissertation by May 2019.

Your advertisement noted interest in candidates with comparable expertise in quantitative methods and a content specialization. As you will see in greater detail in my research statement, my research interests reflect the historic symbiosis between quantitative methods and differential psychology: my substantive work on individual differences and health inequity inspires my quantitative work, whereas my quantitative work on biometrically-informed designs facilitates my substantive work.

I have two lines of research that examine the evaluation of biometrically-informed designs for psychology and their application to understanding health inequity. In my substantive work, I focus on how individual differences influence the relationship between socioeconomic status and health. In my methodological work, I focus on developing and improving biometrically-informed designs, such as behavior genetic and discordant kin models. These designs strengthen our ability to make causal inferences by leveraging environmental and genetic information.

I have received external funding for the intersection of this research; I was awarded a three-year research fellowship ($\approx \$138,000$) from the National Science Foundation and competitive smaller travel and training grants from outside universities, professional organizations, and private foundations. As an Assistant Professor, I intend to pursue similar funding streams, and actively encourage my students to pursue these streams of external funding.

With respect to teaching at the graduate level, I could teach survey courses on Longitudinal Modeling, Generalized Linear modeling, and Quasi-Experimental Methods, as well as specialty courses related to my research. These survey courses would focus on popular methods and software overviews. For example, the Longitudinal course would provide overviews of Structural Equation Modeling, Multilevel Modeling, Survival Analysis, and other applications of maximum likelihood estimation. At the undergraduate level, I could teach foundational methods and statistics courses, and topical surveys in quantitative psychology, measurement, and personality. Further, I would be interested to developing specialty courses for data analysis in R, and Lying with Statistics.

The department's long-standing commitment to both graduate and undergraduate research makes this position particularly appealing, as well as its explict comitment to open science and best practices. I would be interested in mentoring graduate students in the social psychology area conducting research on the social/personality aspect of the SES-health gradient. In addition, I would enjoy collaborating within the department (particularly within social *e.g,* Webster; and developmental *e.g,* Ebner), as well as provide methods consulting.

I have enclosed my vita, representative publications, and statements of research , diversity, and teaching; my letters of reference will be submitted by Professors Joseph Lee Rodgers (joseph.l.rodgers @vanderbilt.edu), Kristopher Preacher (kris.preacher@vanderbilt.edu), and Jeremy Biesanz (jbiesanz @psych.ubc.ca). I am available via email and telephone (1.267.357.4392) to answer any questions. Thank you for considering my application.

Cordially,

S. Mason Garrison